

Application Number 09/649,259
Art Unit 2125

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In the Claims

Pursuant to Examiner's claims rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), Applicant hereby
5 submits amended claims, including a complete listing of all claims in the application with the
status of each claim in parentheses.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for using a relationship manager apparatus to assist a user in optimizing a relationship with a contact person, the method comprising:
 - 10 inputting information regarding the relationship into the apparatus;
 - classifying the relationship into at least one class;
 - assigning a contact frequency to the relationship, said contact frequency being chosen to optimally cultivate said relationship;
 - providing the user with information about the relationship based on the at least one class; and
 - 15 contacting the user at the contact frequency with a first message regarding the relationship, said first message being in the form of a reminder providing the user with information unique to said relationship.
- 20 2. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of inputting information further comprises inputting information about the contact person.
3. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 2, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the contact person.

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4. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of inputting information further comprises inputting information about the user.
5. 5. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 4, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the user.
6. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the user assigns the contact frequency.
- 10 7. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus assigns the contact frequency.
8. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 7, wherein the user reassigns the contact frequency.
- 15 9. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the classification step further comprises classifying the relationship into a plurality of classes.
10. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of classes 20 comprises at least one master class and at least one sub class.

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11. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises a means for inputting details of an action taken by the user in response to the first message.

5 12. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 11, wherein after the contacting step, the method further comprising:

the user inputting details of an action taken in response to the first message; and

10 after the user inputs the details of an action taken in response to the first message, contacting the user at the contact frequency with a second message regarding the relationship, the second message further comprising the details of an action taken in response to the first message.

13. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message 15 comprises educational information and advice based on the at least one class.

14. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises gift recommendations.

20 15. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises activity suggestions.

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16. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises suggested topics of conversation.
17. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message 5 comprises prewritten correspondence.
18. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, further comprising contacting the contact person with a second message.
- 10 19. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 18, wherein the second message comprises a means for inputting information regarding the relationship.
20. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of inputting information further comprises a relationship expert inputting information.
- 15 21. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first message comprises information regarding a vendor.
22. (Previously submitted) The method according to claim 21, further comprising providing 20 access to the vendor.
23. (Currently amended) An apparatus to assist a user in optimizing a relationship with a contact person, the apparatus comprising:

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a storage device;

a processor connected to the storage device;

the storage device storing

a first input from the user regarding the relationship;

5 classifications for different types of relationships;

information for each classification;

contact frequencies for each type of relationship; and,

a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program adapted to

10 receive the first input from the user regarding the relationship;

classify the relationship;

assign a contact frequency to the relationship, said contact frequency being chosen to optimally cultivate said relationship;

provide to the user information based on the classification of the

15 relationship; and

contact the user at the contact frequency with a first message regarding the relationship, said first message being in the form of a reminder providing the user with information unique to said relationship.

20 24. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second in-put from the user regarding information about the contact person, and the storage device further stores the second input.

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25. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the contact person.

26. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the user regarding information about the user, and the storage device further stores the second input.

27. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message comprises information regarding the user.

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28. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the user regarding the contact frequency; and reassign the contact frequency to the relationship based on the second input; and the storage device further stores the second input.

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29. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to classify the relationship into a plurality of classes.

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30. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of classes comprises at least one master class and at least one sub-class.

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31. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the user regarding the details of an action taken by the user in response to the first message, and the storage device further stores the second input.

5 32. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the program is further adapted to contact the user at the contact frequency with a second message regarding the relationship, the second message further comprising the details of an action taken in response to the first message.

10 33. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message comprises information based on the at least one class.

34. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message further comprises gift recommendations.

15 35. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message further comprises activity suggestions.

36. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message
20 further comprises suggested topics of conversation.

37. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message further comprises prewritten correspondence.

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38. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to contact the other person with a second message.

5 39. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the contact person regarding the relationship and the storage device further stores the second input.

10 40. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the program is further adapted to receive a second input from the relationship expert and the storage device further stores the second input.

15 41. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the apparatus is connected to a remote processor.

42. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the first message comprises a link to the second processor.

20 43. (Previously submitted) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first message comprises information about a vendor.

44. (Previously submitted) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the processor is linked to the vendor.